

A NEW WAX SCALE FROM THE ARGENTINE.

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The Coccidæ of the Argentine Republic must be considerably more numerous than the records show. A carefully prepared list, with full bibliographical details, was published by Eugenio Autran in 1907 (Bol. Minist. Agricultura, VII), but it shows only 32 species. One may now be added; I have had it in my possession for a number of years, but only recently, with the assistance of Miss L. H. Falk, have I been able to examine it in detail.

Ceroplastes Lahillei, n. sp.

Waxy scale about 3 mm. long, $2\frac{1}{2}$ broad and $1\frac{1}{2}$ high, solitary or aggregated in masses more or less surrounding the branch, the wax of the different individuals then completely confluent; wax creamy-white, wholly without red or brown; dorsal patch oval, consisting of the elongate-oval dorsal nucleus, and the six lateral and one anterior plates surrounding it, having their several nuclei distinctly developed; caudal patch with a large dark spot, consisting of the caudal horn; lateral wax abundant, convex in section, more or less concentrically grooved, with the usual broad vertical bands of chalky-white secretion. In lateral view the dorsal patch is hardly or not visible.

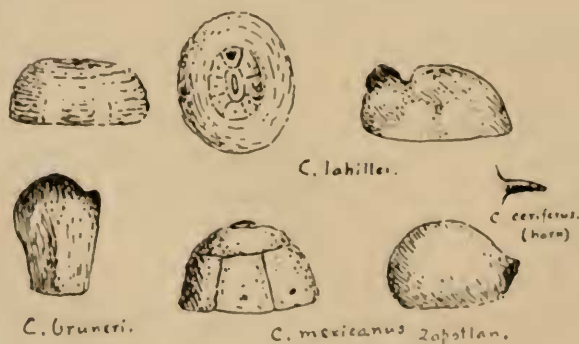


FIG. 5.

Female with wax removed very small, about 2 mm. long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ broad, $1\frac{1}{5}$ high; pale ochreous, with the broad low shining mammiform caudal horn deep chestnut-brown, in strong contrast; dorsum obtusely keeled, and sides with the usual tubercles. In lateral view there is a deep impression between the dorsal hump and the caudal horn.

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Skin thick, strongly chitinized; cephalic region remarkable for three broad lobes or tubercles, one on each side of the antennæ, and one between; stigmatic spines very obtuse; antennæ eight-jointed, joints 2 to 7 measuring in microns: (2) 37, (3) 52, (4) 60, (5) 37, (6) 37, (7) 30;

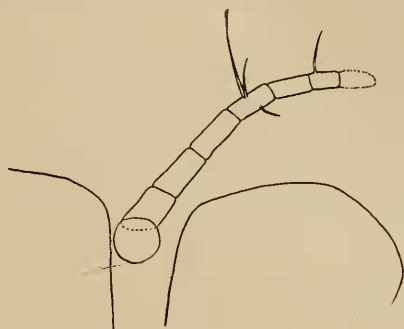


FIG. 6.—Antenna of *C. Lahillei*.

these antennæ are not quite like any others I have seen, but are rather similar to those of *C. formicarius*, *scutigera*, *brachyurus*, *purpurellus* and *Mexicanus*. Legs well developed (see figure); tarsal digitules with very distinct knobs, claw digitules incrassate. (The microscopic figures are by Miss Falk.)



FIG. 7.—Leg of *C. Lahillei*.

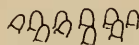


FIG. 8.—Stigmatic spines of *C. Lahillei*.

Hab.—Santa Ana, Argentine (Lahille). The bottle bears this label: "Sta. Ana (Misiones), Llana, No. 10, No. 8 Hem."

The genus *Ceroplastes* is evidently derived from some convex Lecaniid type, and from this point of departure presents a series of forms showing the most curious modifications, coincident with the greater development of wax. Some of the recognizable groups are as follows:

(1.) *C. denudatus* Ckll., of the Lesser Antilles, which is at first a typical *Ceroplastes*, but in age loses nearly all of the wax, and looks like a *Saissetia*.

(2.) Typical *Ceroplastes*, with convex scales, in which the lateral plates are large and reach the lower margin; caudal horn usually moderate, and

directed posteriorly. I give a figure of *C. Mexicanus* Ckll., showing the scale and the denuded female, the latter with the caudal horn visible.

(3) *C. ceriferus*, Anderson, and its allies, in which the wax is very thick, and the caudal horn, still directed posteriorly, has become very long, in order to reach the surface. I give a figure of the caudal horn.

(4.) *Ceroplastina*, n. subg.; type *C. Lahillei*. Wax abundant, pushing the plates on to the dorsal surface; caudal horn mammiform, directed upwards. Wax of different individuals often confluent. I give dorsal and lateral views of the waxy scale, and a lateral view of the denuded female. This subgenus may be considered to include other species with a similar female, such as the South American *C. Bergi* Ckll., and the African *C. Africanus* Green, and *C. egharum* Ckll.

(5.) *Ceroplastidia*, n. subg.; type *C. Bruneri* Ckll. (see figure of denuded female). In this group the wax of the several individuals is thick and always confluent, and the female has become high and narrow. Strictly of this subgenus is *C. candela* Ckll. and King, from Natal.

The occurrence of closely related species of *Ceroplastes* in Africa and South America is noteworthy. These insects are arboreal, and it seems just possible that they have been carried across the ocean on floating trees, the wax serving to protect them from injury. It is perhaps more probable, however, that they are of great antiquity, and have reached the southern lands from the north.

THE ENTOMOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS OF THE LATE DR. JAMES FLETCHER.

The friends of the late Dr. Fletcher and many other Canadian entomologists will be interested to know that the whole of his private collection of insects is now deposited in the Division of Entomology, at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. After his death Mrs. Fletcher asked the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture to accept the collection for the use of the Department, which the Hon. Mr. Fisher was very pleased to do. The collection is of a general character, but is particularly rich in diurnal Lepidoptera, to the study of which Dr. Fletcher paid particular attention. It is being gradually worked into the collections of the Division; and in addition to the mounted specimens, there is a very large amount of material in the shape of many hundreds of unmounted specimens. The addition of this collection to the collections of the Division of Entomology will render them all the more valuable and serviceable in the work of identifying Canadian insects for the many correspondents in different parts of the Dominion, which is one of the many useful functions the Division performs. — (C. G. H.)